The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

We much regret the irregularity of the publishing date of the Gazette. There are several circumstances which are known to all, without any mention in these columns, as it has been the policy of the "Poultry Press" to avoid politics as much as possible. If readers have been inconvenienced, we tender our apoligies and hope for better times ahead.

In consequence of the lateness of the May issue, we received several letters concerning the "Monthly Competition", for which attempts should have reached us by the 20th of the month. Hoping to have this issue out to normal date, it has been decided to retain the same question for the competition, and attempts to reach us by the 25th instant.

It will interest all exhibitors to our shows to know that arrangements are in progress for the All-India to be held at Poona early in December, in conjunction with the Bombay Presidency Poultry Association and the Club are hoping for a record number of entries. Intending exhibitors should write direct to Mr. E. J. Bruen, Live-stock Expert to the Bombay Government, Poona, for all information. It is also hoped to have a show at Calcutta early in January, providing present arrangements hold good.

Whilst upon this subject, may we ask members and exhibitors to send along their views on Mr. Howard's letter in the May issue. Mr. Wiggal has made a start, but we should like more opinions before putting this before the Committee members in time for the coming shows.

As we shall be handing over this office by the end of the year may we make a personal appeal to ALL readers to help increase the circulation of our monthly journal. Every month sees a few fresh addresses, but we continually lose old readers on their retirement to other lands. Our whole time is occupied in prospecting fresh fields, but we need support badly. Our funds are never large enough to circulate hundreds of complimentary copies, but every month we have a few surplus and could send them out to likely subscribers.

May we also point out that when the post card reaches you advising the end of your subscription, we would appreciate your answering same if the Gazette is no longer required, as we lose something like One Hundred Rupees per year on returns. A little forethought would save a lot of unnecessary expenditure.

PROFITABLE POULTRY-KEEPING.

(By "Progress").

Whether you keep poultry for pleasure or profit, you will want the highest egg averages from them it is possible to obtain. Some birds, even of the best laying strains, find a difficulty in returning to their owner a mere 100 eggs per bird in twelve months' laying. Others respond gaily with a yearly average of well over 200 eggs per bird; and the difference in almost every case is to be found in the method of housing and feeding. No bird, whatever its parentage can produce its maximum number of eggs in the year unless the conditions of housing, feeding and management are such as will enable it to respond with a profitable yield.

All poultry-keepers should aim at securing a regular egg production. You want rich eggs, full-flavoured and satisfying, and you want them, too, at that time of the year when, after supplying your own household needs, you can realise top price for the surplus, and, moreover, guarantee repeat orders. Therein lies the key to profitable poultry-keeping.

To make the most out of your fowls the aim must be to get the pullets laying well in November and right through the winter and spring months You have hatched the pullets in spring, and, ever since, you have been "shelling out." It is high time that they began "shelling out", if for no other reason than to let you get the interest on the capital you have sunk. You can ensure November eggs in plenty by feeding the birds on a ration correctly "balanced" for egg production, and more than that, you can "bank" on the eggs being full flavoured and nutritious.

The flavour of the egg depends on the quality of the food consumed by the bird which produces it. It is not a question of breed or variety or strain. You can get as rich eggs from the veriest mongrel as you can from the finest pedigree-bred laying strain pullet. You cannot breed for it. You must *feed* for it. Good food—good eggs. Flavour counts for much from a selling point of view, and numbers are what tell when you balance your books for the year. Get both, and you will be getting the best possible results from your fowls. You will not then be simply keeping poultry, the bird will be keeping you.

Some people seem to think that anything in the nature of food is suitable for poultry—feed them and they will lay. There never was a greater fallacy; and to prove it is a very easy matter. Select two pens of pullets out of the same breeding pen and hatched at the same time of the year. House them alike under ideal conditions. Feed one lot on the "anyway" system and the other on a correctly "balanced" ration for egg production and make careful notes of the results. Note them not only as regards numbrs, but the size, the quality, and last, but not least, the cost of those eggs. Cost must enter into it; so note carefully which lot of pullets lays the most eggs for the least outlay in food. May be you have not the time to carry out such a simple experiment. Possibly you are wise enough to benefit by the experience of others—it does save time anyway. Very well, then, birds must be fed so as to secure the nourishment necessary for their own bodily requirements, and in addition they must get that extra surplus of protein food which will develop the ovaries in a regular steady supply.

Don't make the mistake of overfeeding. That is just as prolific a cause of no eggs as underfeeding. By overfeeding you will surely fatten birds. This excess of fat in the system is detrimental to the ripening of the egg-seeds, and also tends to clog the oviduct.

It really comes to this, then, that all food must be assimilated without surplus for fattening, and that the maximum nourishment must be secured without over-feeding. To do this you must supply a perfectly "balanced" ration, provide plenty of green food, plenty of grit, plenty of exercise, plenty of sunlight, with freedon from draught, dampness and dirt and the result will be—economical feeding, with a maximum result—the secret of success.

BREAKING UP THE BREEDING PENS.

By M. Douglas Gordon.

Any time now the pens can be broken up, and the sooner it is done the better. Many of the birds in the breeding-pens will never be required again, and there is no point in keeping them on indefinitely. Only outstanding birds should be kept a third year, for there will be plenty of 1928 pullets to choose from, and they are likely to be healthier than the older birds. Also they will moult more quickly and begin to lay sooner. Birds tend to start later and later each year, and breeding hens are of no use if they do not commence laying till the spring.

It is best to go into the breeding-pen question as soon as possible after incubation has ceased; then when you have made up your mind about which birds you do not wish to keep, you can weed them out as they cease laying. Some will stop quite early and there is no sense in carrying "passengers." Of course, prices will not be very high as the season advances, as everyone will have hens to dispose of. However, one cannot keep them through the moult merely to make a better price on them. Their room will be required for the young hens in order that the latter's houses may be cleaned and prepared for the 1930 pullets. Therefore sort out the unwanted cocks and dispose of them at once, and let the hens go in instalments as they stop laying. There is no sense in keeping the cocks at all now, unless you want to breed from them again. They are of no further value, and they prejudice the keeping properties of the eggs. It is estimated that 5 per cent. of the summer eggs are spoilt by Mr. Rooster.

Of course in some cases it will be necessary to observe the performances of the offspring before one can decide whether or not to keep the parents, but with many birds one can decide for or against them now, judging them by their egg records and chicks records.

To take egg records first of all, it is to be presumed that the bird put up a good record in her pullet year or she would not be in the breeding-pen. The question now is whether she has lived up to it in her second year. Did she begin in good time, and has she laid good eggs? Has she taken rests too often? Or been over-broody? All these points, and many others, must be taken into consideration. The number of her eggs and the length and frequency of her rests can be ascertained from the trap-nest records, and if notes have been kept, as they should have been, you will also be able to find out how often she has been broody and how long she took to get over it. You should also note the average size and shape of her eggs, and whether or not they were well-shelled and of good texture.

The next point to be considered is whether the eggs have good averages in the incubator. If records have been kept of the results obtained from individual birds much valuable information will be to hand. In many cases, of course, records are only kept of the pen averages; but if pedigree breeding is carried on it is absolutely essential that one should know the proportions of infertiles, broken yolks, addled eggs, and dead-in-shell yielded by each bird. Of course, these points will also be influenced by the males and by the incubators, but presumably the records have been checked, and any cases of bad hatching through no fault of the hens (such as an accident to the male or the incubator) should be discounted entirely, and not held against any of the pen. One will, however, be able to see at a glance if any hen has consistently produced an undue proportion of infertiles, broken yolks, addled eggs, dead-in-shell or cripples killed at birth.

A GUIDE TO PHYSICAL CHARACTER.

There are very many reasons, why embroys die off at one stage or other, but one should remember that a frequent reason is disease in the parent. That disease may so far be unapparent in the hen, but if she lays many eggs which fail to produce healthy chicks in due course, while her pen-sister are giving satisfactory results, it is safe to assume that it is not the male that is at fault, nor yet the incubator. There is something wrong with the hen, and her chicks may be a danger to all the rest.

The chick records should also be consulted, and notes made of any hens whose chicks have been delicate or difficult to rear. The rearability of the chicks, assuming that the brood as a whole has done well, is a sure clue to the physical state of the parents. But, of course, one must not be prejudiced by losses among chicks that are carelessly treated or badly fed. It is the weakly few among the healthy many whose parentage should be sought.

When only pen records are kept the problem presents difficulties, and it is best to be guided by personal inspection of the breeders; for, as regards laying, the fact that a bird put up a good record in her pullet year is no guarantee that she will live up to it in her second year. And as regards hatching, it is not at all uncommon to have one or two hens in a pen that are continually producing, say, infertiles—or perhaps weak germs. It is their fault; but unless they lay very distinctive eggs their sin is not noticed. They swamp the pen record with their misdeeds—and as likely as not poor Mr. Rooster gets the blame. And chick records invariably follow the trend of the hatching records. Thus it will be seen that pen records are liable to be rather misleading when judging individuals.

In any case, whether you have individual records or not it is essential to examine and judge each bird separately before passing sentence. To make up the pens in the office by arithmetic is as foolish as judging a bird superficially as she stands in the pen. Each bird should be picked up and studied before a cross is put against her number. It is a good idea to collect all your data, as explained, and jot it down in tabular form, putting each hen's number with all details affecting her immediately after. Take these notes and a lantern and go to the houses at night. You can study the birds at your leisure, one by one, and they will not be frightened. Nobody wants to chase his birds round in daylight and put them off lay, yet the sooner the sorting is done the better, for the chosen ones can be drafted into fewer pens and the remain-strain ns can be closed and rested and the houses must *feed* t. The breeding-pens are generally not counts for m very long, so the sooner the resting of numbers are wi them can begin the better it will be for the future occupants—and, of course, their produce.

Each bird should be taken in the hand and carefully studied. Remember that there are plenty of young and healthy hens to choose from, and only the pick of the older birds should be kept. From your notes and records select those that have done particularly well in all respects, that have laid many good eggs at the right time of year, that have produced a satisfactory percentage of healthy chicks, and that have not been unduly broody. Then see if the birds themselves are fit and healthy, and look like being profitable producers for another year.

Do not keep any bird that has been sick at all during the past season, or that seems unduly worn out. But remember that they are bound to look exhausted if they have not been well fed and managed. No hen can help but look worn out if she has been working on short rations.

Another bird to avoid is the unduly small one. Do not keep birds much below standard weight, for although they will lay well, their progeny will tend to become still smaller, and the size of egg will deteriorate accordingly.

And above all, do not keep a bird that looks old in the face, with coarse comb and wattles, and tired eyes. They will all look more or less ragged in the plumage if they have been doing their duty, but the bird which is fit and healthy will still have a youthful face and a keen bright eye. She will be alert and sprightly, full of friendliness and curiosity, and with beak and claws short from much scratching and foraging. She will still have the gait and carriage of a "flapper." A bird that is wearing badly will look her age, and perhaps more. In her second year she will look quite the old granny-hen, with a heavy worried frown. If you pick her up she will protest—hysterically or petulantly according to her temperament. This is the sort of bird to avoid if you want to breed a race of hard and active heavy layers.

("Poultry").

IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.

Gleanings from the Home Journals.

Sunlight and Health.

A sign of the trend of thought at the present time is the deep interest which is being paid to the importance of sunlight in relation to health. In connection with this question there is that of ultra-violet rays, respecting which there is a tendency to boom it, and to ignore other factors. That is frequently the case with these new ideas. There is a great need that we conserve and utilize all the natural sunlight we can secure, and remove as far as possible those conditions where, either by shutting it out or so charging the atmosphere with foul emanations that, in addition to poisoning the air, the rays of the sun cannot penetrate, can be recognised as unquestionable. That applies to poultry in multitudes of cases. Anything that can be done to minimise the evil effects of such an environment is desirable, but only until the causes are themselves removed. Remedial influences must never be depended upon entirely, otherwise the last state will be worse than the first. For poultry-keepers to depend upon ultra-violet rays, except as a temporary measure, will be harmful and is courting disaster, to say nothing as to the increased costs involved. The science of ray—therapy is still only in its infancy, but unfortunately it has developed into a craze. It must be understood that the artificial rays are only supplementary, and not additional, to the natural rays. The former are only given to a patient when atmospheric conditions make it impossible, or dangerous, to give the patient open sun baths or where it is a greater convenience to administer artificial treatment. As a fact, the reservations expressed by the various writers, and their notes of caution, indicate that poultry-keepers should proceed with great care in using what may have a value under certain conditions for human beings but may not have the same value for animals, especially as the tendency is to excess and to ignore other factors.

(See on next page).

VALUE OF THE TRAP NEST.

(By H. Wiggal.)

The poultry keeper who has any pretension to up-to-date method will, of course, use the trap-nest systematically throughout all his fowl houses. It is said, and with a great deal of truth, that some of our best breeds of birds are being ruined by breeding for egg production alone, and we should be the last to advocate any such excessive breeding as would deprive a strain of laying hens of their stamina, but it must be admitted every good thing is liable to be abused, and it is the abuse of breeding for egg production that is responsible for these bad results.

It is, however, impossible for the poultry-keeper to build up or to maintain a good laying strain of birds unless he is able to ascertain which are his best layers, and for this it is necessary that he should keep a correct record of the number and size of eggs laid by each hen. He may only wish to find out which of his birds lay the most eggs during the winter months, and to breed from these alone. He may want to know which of them lay eggs of full standard weight, and breed from these, or he may want to breed from those hens which lay the most eggs in the year, and for all these purposes the trap nest is necessary. The poultry-keeper, when he first commenced with his poultry, will probably have bought his initial stock either in the form of sittings of eggs or of young birds from a strain of good layers. If he wishes to improve this strain, or even keep it up to its original standard he must of necessity breed from his own best or fairly good layers, provided that the birds he breeds from are strong and healthy and typical of their breed, and that they lay eggs of 2 ozs. or over.

In this way he will gradually improve his own strain year by year without losing stamina. If, on the other hand, he does not use trap nests, and has no means of ascertaining the number of eggs laid by each individual bird, he may be unfortunate enough to select some of his worst layers for breeding and so deterioration instead of amelioration. Trap nesting is quite simple and gives very little trouble to the poultry-keeper, while at the same time it is interesting and instructive.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

(By Geo. Howard, Langley, Hitchin, England).

Hatchability and Sise of Egg.—I have often commented in the pages of the Indian Poultry Gazette on the matter of the most suitable egg for incubation. It is a general accepted fact that only normal eggs, *i.e.*, normal for shape and size should be used, extra small as well as extra large eggs being discarded. By normal size is meant an egg of two ounces, and personally I think that a margin of, say, one quarter ounce below two ounces and one eighth ounce above two ounces can be allowed for a good hatchable egg to produce a rearable chick. Easy enough to discard eggs below two ounces in weight and we all may do so without any qualms, but it is an entirely different matter with the larger egg. We all want to get the real nice big egg, whether it be an economic proposition to produce it or not, and I imagine we all try and produce chicks from our largest eggs, being all the time fully aware that the percentage of chicks to eggs set will be lower, very much lower indeed with the real large eggs of $2\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and much lower still with eggs above $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. This season I have taken particular note of the hatchability of some of the very large eggs, and eggs from $2\frac{1}{4}$ ounces upwards. In the case of some 50 odd eggs set from three hens laying eggs between $2\frac{3}{4}$ and 3 ounces, not a dozen chicks hatched, and of these half of them died within four days. The percentage of chicks hatched from eggs weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ ounces was slightly higher, but here again quite 50 per cent. of the chicks died within four days. With eggs weighing from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces an average of approximately 50 per cent. chicks of eggs set was obtained, and here there was a marked increase in the percentage of chicks that passed what appeared to be the critical stage with the others, *i.e.*, the first week. The chicks from these large eggs are usually fine large chicks, but many will be found to be quite unable to stand up on their legs until they are almost a day old and even then they seem to have great difficulty in keeping up on their legs. Examination of the chicks usually shows that the abdomen is very full and distended, and seemingly much too large in proportion to the remainder of the body. Post morten examination generally shews that even after the chick has lived for four days the abdomen is full of unabsorbed egg yolk. The above notes are the result of careful observation of eggs and chicks produced there from my own stock, from eggs from three other well known English breeders, and from some cross bred farm stock, and in no case can the stamina or feeding of the breeding stock be doubted.

Incubator Temperatures.—We have all read the advertisements of makers of incubators together with their testimonials from those who say they have obtained a hatch of one hundred per cent. of eggs set. Some are not quite so bold and leave it at 100 per cent. of fertile eggs; others are rather timid and place it at 100 per cent. of hatchable eggs placed in the incubator. In the latter case, any eggs that do not hatch can readily be said to have

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There would, however, appear to be one direction which can be safely applied, and which is the result of appreciation of the importance of sunlight—namely, that where glass is used in houses and appliances, as is often thought desirable, this should not be the ordinary form. So far as can be seen the discovery of the fact that, whilst ultra-violet rays cannot pass through ordinary glass they do, with all the beneficial effects which follow, pass freely through Vita and other glass substitutes, is of the utmost importance, and this discovery is gradually revolutionising the poultry world in regard to poultry house construction. The introduction of Vita and other glasses would appear to be affording an opportunity for obviating some, at least, of the ill-effects of artificial methods. Even in that respect there is much yet to learn. All the time, however, there remains what is an indisputable fact, namely, that the more we can give to poultry, at all stages, natural conditions, and permit the sun to exercise its influence upon them, the less is the need for depending upon these extraneous methods in which are unrevealed dangers—to say nothing of their cost.

United Provinces Poultry Farm, Lucknow.

Our many clients will share with the Association the pride they have in announcing that at the recent All-India Show, out of eighteen exhibits entered all won awards with the exception of one pullet.

We also carried off the supreme trophy of the Viceroy's Cup with an utility exhibit "Black Australorp Cockerel" who also won four other challenge cups.

Our other wins were in R. I. Reds with a pullet bred from our Prince of Wales's Strain and the best Breeding trio challenge cup fell to our R. I. Reds.

Our Light Sussex won highest honours including challenge cup and both White and Brown eggs from the Farm went up top.

We have some attractive offers in breeding pens to sell next month, the pens that have bred the above good stock.

Chickens and eggs are now on sale also. Send for our full price list.

Apply Secretary,—

8. **U. P. P. A. LUCKNOW.**

THE EXCHANGE.

(By "Wayfarer")

This is a thing few of us are offered very often though the desire to barter is as old as man himself, millions upon millions of years, and it is ingrained in his being.

It is not as common in the Indian Mofussil at it is in the country at Home partly that it has less scope, and partly I think, that most people seem to have ideas above making a swap, regarding it as a low down thing to do and that somehow a clear sale is all right yet an exchange is quite beneath their dignity. Why, I do not know but there it is.

Perhaps it was a feeling that civilization had got beyond the Exchange of one article of commerce for another and that only coin of the realm could be taken in exchange. Perhaps its just the difference in society that there is between the stock-broker and the book-maker, merely a difference in the imagination of the onlookers, for both do the very same thing; back their fancy of a get rich quick scheme, or those who sell motor cars and commercial travellers in say tobacco or scent.

There used to be, in the far off days of my youth, a paper called the Exchange or Mart, it was

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been unhatchable, and who can prove it to have been otherwise? Seventy-five per cent. from eggs set under hens or in an incubator satisfies me, and, alas! often it is less. However, the importance of a steady and even temperature is rubbed into us by incubator manufacturers, and by the majority of those who have anything to do with incubators. Some manufacturers point out that as the temperature may vary at the sides of the incubator, the egg drawer in their machines are so constructed that the outsides are nearer to the source of heat supply than the centre of the drawer; at the same time they tell us to change the eggs round from side to side, centre to side, etc., etc. But what I could not fathom was why the necessity to keep on changing eggs round in the egg drawer if the temperature was the same in all parts of the drawer? And, if an absolute even temperature is necessary, and the temperature is not the same in any two parts of the egg drawer, will changing about, to what in effect is various temperatures, make for a better hatch? As I have said, previous to this year I have taken as gospel the word of the manufacturers and assumed that by the construction of their machines they have done what their catalogues say and produced an incubator that maintains an even temperature all over the drawer, and therefore contented myself by turning the eggs twice daily. This year I became inquisitive, and started making tests in regard to temperatures in various parts of the egg drawer. I wish I had left it alone as the results quite upset my state of mind and made me nervous. I started with a machine for 390 eggs, hot air. I got four thermometers-all tested to read the same as the one supplied with the machine and used in the centre of the two eggs drawers. Placed a thermometer at each corner of the machine and noted the difference in the readings. Centre thermometer read 104 degrees; the others varied from 100 to 101 degrees. Then placed the four thermometers each about half way between the sides and centre; still they registered from 2 to 3 degrees below the centre one. Next tried similar experiments with three machines each of 150 egg capacity. Found a variation of from 2 to 2½ degrees between centre and sides of egg drawers. Then with 100 egg machines, two different makes, and found variation of 1½ to 2 degrees. Each of the above six machines are of a different make. My smaller, 60 egg machines, I have not tested. Then tried experiment of testing actual temperature on top of egg in centre of drawer and comparing with that registered by thermometer suspended in position recommended by makers. Found a difference of 1½ degrees. Then stopped experimenting further having found more than sufficient to make one uneasy. But then again, why worry? Surely this indicates that after all temperature is not quite as important a factor in the incubation of eggs as we are led to believe. After all, we all have had at some time or the other a hen that for some reason has been off the nest for hours at a time and yet brought off a good hatch.

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EGG production can be largely increased by using CELOTEX for lining the walls and roofs of poultry houses.

Once installed, it gives poultry the permanent advantage of a much more uniform temperature with absolute insulation against extreme heat or cold, draughts and damp.

CELOTEX is easy to cut and apply, and weighs only 60 pounds per 100 square feet. It is supplied in boards 3 and 4 feet wide, $\frac{7}{16}$ in. thick, in various lengths from 8 to 14 feet.

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12.

CURRENT EVENTS IN ENGLAND.

(By Geo. Howard, "Sperrin" Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin, England).

The B. W. D. Controversy.—The "Feathered World" is still publishing many letters on this subject but the controversy appears to be drawing to an end, the Editor of that journal having now undertaken to arrange for a postal vote from readers giving their opinions.

Egg Size at Laying Tests.—The manager of the National Laying Test has reported that in the International Section for overseas birds the size of eggs laid is not impressive, his report going on to say that possibly the birds on arrival were immature, or took time to settle down, but that it seems clear that foreign breeders do not pay the attention to size of egg that English breeders do. It is further said that the inferiority is not confined to the heavy breeds, although two otherwise charming pens of Barred Rocks are particularly bad, but the white Leghorns show similar failings, especially three pens from Holland, but that fortunately the leading pens in the Overseas Section redeem the shortcomings of others. The three leading pens in the section are those of (1) The Elevage de la Cote (Colonel Lethbridge) France, (2) Miss P. White, Ireland, and (3) J. C. Quanbury, Canada.

National Mark Eggs.—There has been a change made in the designation of grades of National Mark eggs, the grades now Special, eggs 2¼ ounces upwards, Standards, 2 ounces to 2¼, Mediums, 1¾ ounces to 2 ounces, and Pullets, 1½ to 1¾ ounces. In the original order eggs below 2 ounces were designated "Pullet Standards."

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published in England in which all manner of livestock from tortoise to peacock were offered, some for sale and some in exchange for something alive for inanimate mentioned by the advertiser.

Dogs for cameras; rabbits for hens; white mice for rabbits, and so on. It was a very useful paper for everyone. Youth and grown ups as well, whose finances were not over flourishing might exchange what they had for what they thought they must have.

It was a bit of a chance for no one's honesty was vouched for, and be we young or old, we all love a chance as we call it, really meaning a gamble.

Around where I came from barter was carried on quite briskly, often times the produce of the sea fish and shell fish for produce of the land. True it was a small place and the people were conservative and a little proud of doing as their fathers had done before them for generations, though they were as happy as city folk.

The barter instinct seems to depart from us in India. I have been offered exchanges but always by those as humble and poor as myself and some exchanges I have made were immensely satisfactory to both parties.

Unfortunately it is not considered quite the thing to exchange or offer to exchange some chickens for a pup or some eggs for an equally desirable thing. Most of us lose by it for we might have just what the other man wants and vice-versa, and all be benefitted.

India is a vast place and the weather is mostly against the transit of live stock, though in winter things are well enough. The great thing against exchange is that is it hard to get any personal knowledge of those you deal with, and so many folk have but a rudimentary idea of pure-bred fowls and too often the advertisements in the daily papers are but a snare for the unwary. I do not speak here for those who know, and we are not without them.

I have often wondered if exchanges could be worked, for if it could, it would be a very great boon to those who are none too well off, and be a vast help to the enthusiasts who might need new blood, or a change of breeds and after all, its the enthusiast whatever be his station of life that every help and assistance should be extended to, for they are the ones who keep interest alive.

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5 Challenge Cups, 3 Open Specials, 9 Firsts, 7 Seconds, 3 Thirds, 3 V. H. C. Including BEST BIRD IN THE SHOW, with a R. I. RED PULLET ; I. P. C. Challenge Cup. for the BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for the BEST LEGHORN.

ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 1930.

5 Challenge Cups, 7 Firsts, 4 Seconds, 2 Thirds, 1 V. H. C., 2 Reserve. Including I. P. C. Challenge Cup for BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for BEST LEGHORN.

Eggs for Hatching.

R. I. REDS. EX-UTILITY	**Rs. 30/-** per Dozen.
R. I. REDS UTILITY	**Rs. 18/-** per Dozen.
EXHIBITION MINORCAS (Imported Pen) ...	**Rs. 30/-** per Dozen.
UTILITY MINORCAS	**Rs. 18/-** per Dozen.
EXHIBITION LEGHORNS (Dewar's) ...	**Rs. 24/-** per Dozen.
UTILITY LEGHORNS	**Rs. 18/-** per Dozen.

Packing and despatch free. 15 eggs sent to the Dozen.

BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE.

Cocks, Cockerels, Hens, Pullets, Exhibition White Leghorns. Rs. **15**/-, **20**/-, and **25**/- each.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

Being a poultry enthusiast for some years in India, I have recently been studying the prospect of cross-breeding, and, having a fairly large poultry library, have read up as much as possible on this subject. All seemed clear enough as both Powell-Owen and Will Hooly say that the cross should be made by mating a male to a female of the cross desired, and the cross is named from male to female, *i.e.*, if I cross a Rhode Island Male with an Indian Game Female, the cross is termed Rhode Island × Indian Game.

Now comes the snag, I recently purchased a book entitled *"Poultry Farming in the East"* by Mrs. A. K. Fawkes. Turning to page 42 of this book, I read the following "Cross-breeding is the mating of pure-bred hens of one breed or variety a pure-bred cock of another breed or variety. The Progeny are called cross-breds. *When refering to a cross always name the females first and the male after,* thus, a Wyandotte × Rhode Island Red is when Wyandotte hens have been mated to a Rhode Island Red cock. The subsequent mating of cross-bred birds is not advisable, it is a step towards mongrelisation." (The words in *Italics* have been put thus by me).

I shall be very pleased if you could tell me which method is correct. We all have great respect for Mrs. Fawkes in poultrydom in India, and abide by her understanding, but we have the same for our great English writers. Perhaps some of your readers of the Indian Poultry Gazette could give a definite answer as I am still very interested in this subject.

"PUZZLED."

[We sent this letter along to "Buff Rock" and herewith his reply.—*Ed.*]

THE HON. EDITOR,

Cross breeding.

Reference the letter from 'Puzzled' handed on to me for my reply. I have been through *"Poultry Farming in the East"* and note on page 42 that Mrs. Fawkes names a cross by placing the Female first.

This is wrong. In all cases of cross breeding the resultant cross is named from the male first and NOT female, *i.e.*, A. R. I. Red male mated to Wyandotte females is called a R. I. Red-Wyandotte cross and NOT a Wyandotte-R. I. Red.

It is obviously not possible to have two opposite rules in naming a cross and for the benefit of the novice ALWAYS name the MALE first.

"BUFF ROCK."

SIR,

The letter from Mr. C. Howard contained in the May issue of the Gazette has opened up a question of great moment to breeders in India. That English breeders have, and are, sending out exhibits to compete against Indian breeders is a matter which requires the careful consideration of the Indian Poultry Club.

(See on next page).

(Continued from previous page).

Death of Lord Dewar.—By the recent death of Lord Dewar the Poultry Fancy has lost one of its main supports during recent years, and the Poultry Press are unanimous in voicing their good opinions of His Lordship as a sportsman and Fancier. Lord Dewar was to have taken a prominent part in the forthcoming World's Poultry Congress and his hospitality to visitors from overseas will be sorely missed.

World's Poultry Congress.—The Poultry Press can not be said to contain as much news regarding the forthcoming Congress as most would like to see. Entries closed some time ago but from various references made in the Poultry Press it would appear that in the case of entries from English breeders they are not up to the number required and the date for closing appears to have been extended and further appeals made to English Breeders to enter their birds. All available space for Trade stands, etc., was taken up long ago.

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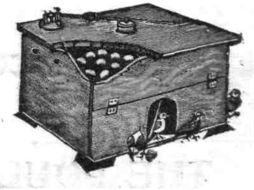

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IGATPURI G. I. P.

12.

(Continued from previous page).

I put it to members generally: What chance can the fancier belonging to the working class expect in competing against some of the foremost breeders in other countries who have many years of experience in the breeding of poultry, both exhibition and utility? The same may be said in regard to those fortunate exhibitors who are in a position to import their winners annually.

In my estimation the Special for "Best in the Show" should be altered to read "Best in the Show bred and reared by the exhibitor." Both the Overseas and Nowrojee Challenge Cups are restricted to birds Imported by Exhibitor, so that in the event of an imported bird being "Best in Show" the above Cups fall automatically to the owner of the imported bird.

In order to encourage importation, or, to encourage Indian breeders to endeavour to breed something as good as the experienced breeders of other countries, the I.P.C. could present a "Poultry Club Medal" for the best bird imported, or bred in India as the case may be. This in itself will create keen competition, which, as Mr. Howard remarks will be all for the good of the fancy in India.

H. WIGGAL.

Note:—It should be understood that "Bred and reared by exhibitor" means that the breeding pen was mated up by the exhibitor, not birds reared from Imported stock mated up by the sender.

(We fully agree with what Mr. Wiggal says, and invite more correspondence in this matter from our many exhibitors, so that we may see the effect in the coming season's shows.—*E. D.*)

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2.

? ? ?

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Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,

C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Poultry Instructor. *Chandpur.*—Submits sketches of proposed new colony houses for erection on the farm. The type of colony house is a very useful one for this climate but I do not think the expense of Windolite or other kind of glass permitting violet rays to penetrate is necessary as the sun in this country is ample without artificial means to draw the beneficial rays from it. The size is perhaps on the small side, and instead of 250 birds I should allow only 225 to stop overcrowding on hot nights. Nest boxes should number 35—40.

V. Dalgado de Sa. *Assagao.*—I note you are unable to get Barley meal, Meat meal and Biscuit meal for your layers mash formula so will offer a substitute for the first 2 but I suggest you try and get Biscuit meal which you will find is advertised in the Gazette often.

The revised layer's mash is as follows, 1 part Maize Meal, 2 Biscuit Meal, 1 Fish, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Jowai Meal, $4\frac{1}{2}$ Wheat Bran, 2 ozs. salt, 4 Wood charcoal powdered. Addition of a good spice.

CHICKS,—2 parts Biscuit Meal (the most important item) 1 part Bajra Meal, $\frac{1}{2}$ part Fish Meal, $\frac{1}{2}$ part Maize Meal, 3 parts Wheat Bran, 1 oz. salt.

This can be carried on up to 3 months.

Mr. R. *Cawnpore.*—Requires a good hard grain formula for fighting game birds, Wheat 2 parts, Broken peas 2 parts, Maize 1 part, S.G.O. 1 part. $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. per bird morning and night.

Mr. D. *Calcutta.*—Sex link enquiry. The Leghorn is not suitable for and will not produce a sex linked offspring. I suggest you use the R. I. Red for your purpose.

Mrs. P. *Cossipur.*—Requires particulars re-hatching in India. For such places as Darjeeling, Shillong and the general run of Hill stations I find the English system of March for heavies and April for light breeds the best but for the plains it is advisable to work November January so as to allow sufficient time for the chicks to be strong to withstand the heat of April and May. Many people hatch as late as March in the plains but they do not get the strong healthy stock from their breeders they ·ld in November or December.

·r. D. *Jubbelpore.*—I have had a lot of with my incubator this season and find ı can get 103 on the top of the eggs in the centre the back is 105 and the front as low as 101. Can you tell me how to correct it. Heat rises Mr. D. I suggest you experiment with the level of your machine. If you put wedges about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch under the front legs you may find considerable difference in the draw heat readings. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch will alter readings in some machines as much as 2 degrees. Don't use felt strips as I think the maker of this machine says definitely eggs should lay on the bare wire of the tray.

Mr. H. *Faridpur.*—Can you tell me the type of house used in rearing young fowls by the "Paynter System"? They are of the ark type Mr. H. On the Paynter farm they were in groups and measurements 6 ft. x 2/9 ft. with slatted bottoms through which the droppings fell into a tray underneath and were easily removed. 12 to 20 birds according to size and age.

Mrs. J. *Dacca.*—Wishes to know the best method of feeding ducklings from shell to end of first 2 weeks. The best in my opinion Mrs. J. is a wet mash of biscuit meal soaked in skimmed milk, the surplus milk drained off and the resultant mash rolled in fine oatmeal. Feed every 2 hrs. for 1st week and every 3 for the 2nd week.

Mr. B. *Nakalia.*—Asks will I please tell him under which heading does Guinea fowl come. Is it classed poultry or Game?—POULTRY.

Mr. L. *Lahore* wants to know what is the best colour feed for black Australorps to improve gloss and deepness of their plumage. The birds from the time they start their first moult into pullet plumage should have the addition of linseed and hempseed in their grain ration. The two seeds forming about 30% of the grain feed. Some people say use carbonate of Iron but my opinion of the use of this or any other drug tends to turn the plumage rusty and it does not show that greeny sheen one likes to see. Give the birds plenty of shade and don't allow them to stop in the strong midday sun.

Mr. G. *Calcutta.*—I wish to know how to stop the moult in my birds. What is the best method to accomplish it? You cannot stop it Mr. G. But you can postpone it. To do this, increase the amount of food and also the nourishing qualities of it. Guard against changes of location and sudden changes in the foods you feed to the birds.

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